

RFSA MAGAZINE

RETIRED FACULTY-STAFF ASSOCIATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

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1926-2017
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J. J. PICKLE
RESEARCH CAMPUS
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FALL 2017
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RFSA MAGAZINE

VOLUME XXXII, ISSUE I

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Back cover photo by John Slattery, Pickle Research Campus water tower, courtesy of PRC Commons Learning Center

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IN MEMORIAM



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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Hello, RFSA members! I hope your summer was relaxing and recharging, that your fall was filled with the fun activities that we all enjoy as the weather cools a little, and that your winter, so far, has been filled with the warmth of family and friends.

One of the things that I enjoy about RFSA is that you have opportunities to become involved at whatever level you want. I think all of us enjoy our Fall and Spring Luncheons, generously hosted by President Fenves. They are a chance to catch up with former colleagues while enjoying delicious food and hearing interesting speakers. And perhaps that is enough for you to continue with your membership. But if you have the time to attend some of our Interest Group gatherings, you will get to visit with members in a much smaller venue while learning from specialists in a variety of fields (Discussion, Finance/Investments and Health Interest Groups); play party bridge (Bridge); enjoy lunch or dinner at a new restaurant (Foodies); work out at the Rec Sports Center (Exercise); or enjoy local to around-the-world trips (Travel). If you wish there was a group that did something else—anything that you and other RFSA members might enjoy—start one! I have heard people talk about book clubs, active outings, volunteering, cooking classes and more. Let me know if you have any ideas; after all, this is your organization!

Those who attended the Fall Luncheon got to hear Kevin Tuerff and his amazing story of how 9/11 changed his life and how that tragic event continues to lead him in unexpected directions. His compassion and generosity of spirit were inspirational to all of us. Particularly in this time of mean-spirited political division, it is even more important to practice kindness to others and give back

in some way. Before we retired, donating funds was often the best option. Now most of us have less money to share, so we might be looking for other ways to make our world a better place. There are hundreds of local organizations that need volunteers, and most of us have pitched in, at least occasionally. But I would like to share some creative ideas that might give you additional inspiration.

The Turquoise Table started right here in Austin, when Kristin Schell painted her old picnic table turquoise and dragged it into her front yard. That table became a meeting place for neighbors, friends and strangers to hang out, and has spurred a front yard revival, a welcoming place to gather and share life, love, laughter, and tears. Turquoise tables are appearing all over (as far away as Uganda), as places for people to gather and support each other. Kristin's website has a quotation from William Butler Yeats: "There are no strangers here; only friends you have not met." During this era of online friends, having a human at the table is very appealing.

Two other sharing opportunities that I love are "Little Free Libraries" and "Blessing Boxes". Anyone can put a Little Free Library in their front yard (or community center or church or wherever), a small box with a clear door, and stock it with books for all ages. People can get a book or leave a book. It's a great way to encourage reading, and perhaps let a child own a book for the very first time. A Blessing Box is a cousin to the Little Free Library, a place to leave food and personal care items for those who might need them. Many communities have food banks, but sometimes people just need enough food to feed their children that night. It is discreet, no one has to ask for help, and it can change someone's day. Friends, social groups and websites such as Nextdoor make it easy to involve others to help keep the libraries and blessing boxes stocked.

I am inspired by you, my fellow RFSA members. Your friendship and your stories have helped me become a better person, and I thank all of you for allowing me the opportunity to serve as your president this year. I hope to see you at our many RFSA events in 2018, and wish you a new year filled with joy.

—Tany Norwood
PRESIDENT, 2017-18

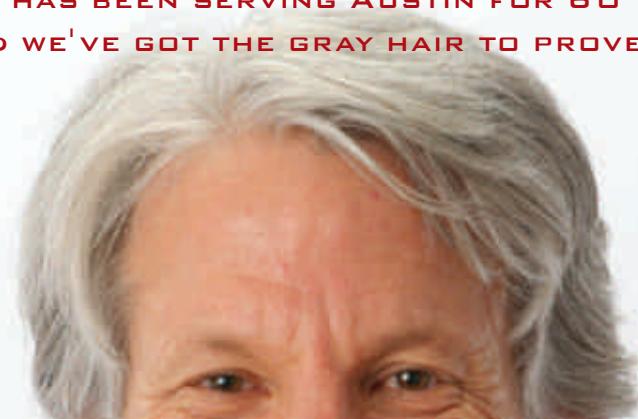
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Our sponsors have been solicited because of their excellent reputations in selling the best goods and providing the best service to customers. Many of them are family businesses that have been in our community for a long time. These include the Covert family of auto dealerships, the Strand family of Stan's A/C, the Ravel family of Karavel Shoes, the Goff family of Mr. Appliance, and the Fish family of Weed-Corley-Fish Funeral Homes. Our other sponsors, although not family owned, have a longtime reputation for giving wonderful service to the community. They are St. David's HealthCare, University Federal Credit Union, and the Westminster Retirement Community. And please give a warm welcome to our newest sponsors: Fast Park & Relax, providing fast, easy and economical offsite parking at Austin-Bergstrom International Airport; and Austin Hearing Services, offering state-of-the-art comprehensive hearing health care.

Through their sponsorships, these businesses help us keep our membership dues low and provide support to UT students through the RFSA Scholarship Fund. When you need goods or services, please consider using them; it will be a win-win-win situation for you, for them and for RFSA. And when you use them, please let them know that you belong to RFSA, and that we appreciate their support.



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INTEREST GROUPS

BRIDGE



Pat Boone, Jake Aggarwal and Kathleen Howard enjoy a bridge game

The RFSA bridge interest group meets the first Monday of each month, unless the first Monday is a holiday, in which case we meet the second Monday. Since we need to find players in multiples of four, we need to know in advance who would like to play. We typically have eight to 16 people for each session. We play party bridge (not duplicate) and change partners after each round. We begin at 1 p.m. in the Alumni Center. For more information or to add your name to the list of potential players, contact Mary Kay Hemenway (marykay@astro.as.utexas.edu) or Liz Bozyn (starlizzie@austin.rr.com).

DISCUSSION



Co-chairs Don Davis and Alice Reinarz with Tommi Ferguson from Capital City Village

The discussion interest group's reports often have focused on our speakers and topics. We would like to expand our communication to include thanking the many members who have participated. Our aim is to provide a subject expert who can

explain, in a general and non-intimidating fashion, a topic of interest. Participants benefit from the learning that occurs but also from the ensuing dialogue among the members and with the speaker. As retirees, some of us have fewer opportunities for real conversation with friends and colleagues. Our small setting is designed to offer such opportunities.

We also want to express gratitude to the Howson branch of the Austin Public Library for permitting us to use their suitable (and free) meeting room. With adequate nearby parking, the library facility at 2500 Exposition is convenient for all participants.

Finally, we appreciate the good suggestions from members for discussion group topics. While not all can be arranged, this interaction with members assures an appropriate variety in programs. Topics for fall 2017 featured social outreach services in Austin. Our first fall presenter, Tommi Ferguson, executive director of Capital City Village (CCV), explained that she is part of a nonprofit dedicated to helping seniors stay in their homes and communities as long as possible. This concept is called "aging in place" and is achieved for the members of this virtual village by volunteers, paid providers, and programs. The model originated in 2006 and is well explained on their website, capitalcityvillage.org. They provide help with transportation, errands, and companionship. This arrangement is working in Austin currently. RFSA members who might wish to volunteer or learn more about CCV were encouraged to check the FAQs on the web.

The final fall session on Dec. 6 featured Alyah Khan, Communications Coordinator for Foundation Communities. Foundation Communities is a local nonprofit that provides affordable homes and free on-site support services for families with kids, veterans, seniors, and individuals with disabilities. The presentation provided members with information including how RFSA members may choose to support this model.

The discussion group meets the first Wednesday of the month from 1:30 to 3:30 during fall and spring seasons. For more information, please contact group co-chairs Don Davis (ddgDavis@ischool.utexas.edu) and Alice Reinarz (areinarz@tamu.edu).

EXERCISE

The exercise interest group meets Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8:30 to 9:30 at the Recreational Sports Center, room 1.106, where experienced exercise instructors Helen Scaffa and Sandy Erickson lead us in a variety of exercises designed for all ages and fitness levels. These include balance work, stretches, yoga, and low-impact Pilates, using exercise balls, hand weights, and therabands.

To participate, you need to join RecSports; there is a 50% discount for retirees. For more information, contact Carolyn Wylie (cateswylie@gmail.com or 512-453-2556).

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INTEREST GROUPS

FINANCE/INVESTMENTS



Phil Kelton addresses attendees at a finance/investments interest group meeting

The finance/investments interest group meets on the second Monday of the month at Howson Library. We do not have meetings every month, but we publicize all meetings on the RFSA website calendar and also via emails to RFSA members whenever we have a scheduled speaker.

In September, Dennis Hobbs, a financial advisor with the Private Client Group at BBC Wealth Management, reviewed market and sector performance in 2017 and discussed how investors can align their investments with their goals. Meetings scheduled for late 2017 and early 2018 include one on charitable giving to UT Austin, one on index fund investing, and our annual report from Carl Stuart, independent financial advisor. Stuart can also be heard on his weekly program on Saturday afternoons at 4 p.m. on KLBJ radio.

All RFSA members are welcome and encouraged to suggest topics for our meetings.

Co-chairs are Lewis Myers (lewism@stedwards.edu), Phil Kelton (pwkkelton@gmail.com) and Pauline Lopez (psanlopez@yahoo.com). Please contact us with questions or suggestions.

FINE ARTS

The fine arts chair or co-chairs position, who work to make this group a success, is currently vacant. If you are interested in coordinating the diverse activities of this interest group, please contact RFSA President Tany Norwood (tanynorwood@utexas.edu).

The fine arts interest group has three members who plan events:

Carolyn Wylie keeps RFSA members abreast of musical events in and around Austin, with emphasis on those that are free or low cost (cateswylie@gmail.com).

Judy Amis arranges the theater parties, usually including a happy hour or dinner. We've done this several times already—always fun for all, with easy access to the theater as well as a

nearby restaurant (judy.amis@yahoo.com).

Laraine Lasdon is our art docent extraordinaire.

RFSA members are encouraged to contact any of us with ideas and suggestions for fine arts related possibilities. We also want to keep an email list of interested arts enthusiasts. Please let us know if you wish to be on such a specialized list. Best of all, join our committee to participate in planning some informative and enriching events!

FOODIES



Foodies enjoying a meal at 68 Degrees (Photo by Tany Norwood)

There were lots of “oooohs” and “aaaahs” from foodies interest group members this past few months as we explored several different cuisines. To share just a few:

Bonhomie is an Allandale neighborhood French American bistro located on Burnet Road. We shared pommes rosti (crisp hash brown potatoes) topped with pear butter, yogurt and chives as well as one with roasted mushrooms, caramelized onions and spinach. The French onion soup with cheese toast was thick and the roasted squash with golden raisins, parsley, brown butter, and goat cheese was delicious. Cheeseburgers are also wonderful here.

Pitchfork Pretty, located on East Cesar Chavez, is dedicated to Hill Country cuisine. Many dishes such as the fried and barbecued chickens are shared family style and accompanied by sweet potato slaw. Also on the menu are beef sausage with all the fixin's and roast pork with grilled radishes, red onions and pineapple. A favorite dessert for our group was the lemon icebox pie with kiwi and figs.

Lunch at the new Jack Allen's on Anderson Lane upheld this company's tradition of quality food and an extensive menu. Yes, they continue with the pimento cheese and in-house made flatbread crackers as a free appetizer. Crunchy catfish with slaw, grilled red ruby trout and buttermilk fried chicken salad are staples on the menu along with a yummy special of the day.

68 Degrees is a neighborhood restaurant on Lake Austin Boulevard that prides itself on its in-house food made with local ingredients. There were so many pasta dishes on offer

INTEREST GROUPS

that it was difficult to choose. We were also tempted by beet and burrata salad, grilled trout with corn and tomato basil salsa and the evening special: ravioli stuffed with green beans, which one member of our group gave a rave review.

Picnik is a soy free, gluten free, corn free, and peanut free healthy food restaurant located on Burnet Road. Yes, healthy food can be tasty! The loaded guacamole with avocado, green apples, kale and cilantro accompanied by almond tortilla chips, the orange chicken with broccoli and the fried Brussels sprouts with crispy pork belly, raw parmesan and maple vinaigrette all received rave reviews. Several members ordered the blondie ice cream sandwich for dessert and recommend it. This restaurant is open for breakfast and some breakfast items are available throughout the day.

If you want to join our group, please contact Sharon Justice at dsshj@austin.utexas.edu. It's fun to experiment with unusual restaurants in Austin and visiting with other RFSA members is always a delight!

HEALTH



Dr. Craig Kuhns speaks to RFSA health interest group

The health interest group continues to enjoy our meetings at the Old Quarry Library on Village Center Drive, off Far West Blvd. In September we heard from Dr. Craig Kuhns, who is an orthopedic surgeon. A member of Austin Spine Specialists, Dr. Kuhns spoke to us about various spine problems including stenosis of the cervical and lumbar spine and how these conditions can be treated using new surgical techniques. In October, we heard from Dr. Marie Bui, an ophthalmologist who specializes in cataract and refractive surgery, medical retina, and oculoplastic procedures. Dr. Bui, an affiliate of Austin Eye, was very popular because so many of us don't see as well as we used to!

We would love for you to join us as we learn more about various medical procedures and ways to stay healthy! Please contact Linda Millstone at lmwiseone@mail.com if you have any questions. We look forward to seeing you!

TRAVEL



Old Faithful, Yellowstone National Park (photo by Joyce McClendon)

The RFSA travel interest group toured the entirety of the coastal regions of Ireland in late August of 2017 with a group of approximately 30 very enthusiastic members. See pages 26-30 for the story of our tour and photos. A more complete travelogue and many more photos are available on the RFSA website at sites.utexas.edu/rfsa under the "Etc." tab.

Group tours planned for 2018 include a 14-day Alaskan land and sea cruise with Holland America. This tour will leave Austin to fly to Vancouver, British Columbia to board the ship on June 10 and will return to Austin on June 23, 2018. The tour includes a cruise along the Canadian coast, stops in Ketchikan, Juneau, and Skagway, up-close views of spectacular glaciers and a cruise through the Gulf of Alaska to Seward. While in the three Alaskan towns, multiple land excursions will be available to enjoy, including whale tours, visits to dog sledding camps, helicopter tours of the fjords of Alaska, salmon fishing, and many, many more exciting options. Upon arriving in Seward, the group will board the Goldstar dome train to Denali for a two-night adventure in Denali National Park, including a Tundra Wilderness Tour

INTEREST GROUPS

with a guarantee of abundant wildlife including grizzly bears, moose, caribou, and Dall sheep. Helicopter and fixed-wing airplane tours of Denali and its magnificent views are available, along with many other outback and land tours. After reluctantly saying goodbye to Denali, the tour will travel to Fairbanks for a two-night visit that includes a Riverboat Sternwheeler Cruise. While in Fairbanks, there will be ample opportunities for additional land excursions and don't forget to grab a reindeer sausage at one of the local street vendors... you'll be glad you did. Delish!

The deadline for signing up for the Alaskan cruise is Jan. 10, 2018; but slots may still be available after that date for a slightly higher price. Contact Karen Bluethman at Heart of Texas Tours (hottours@sbcglobal.net), 512-345-2043 for additional information or to sign up, and then plan to enjoy a great time with UT friends. Friends not associated with UT or RFSA are also welcome to join this tour.

In early September of 2018 the travel group is sponsoring a Yellowstone National Park adventure. The group will leave Austin on Monday, Sept. 3 and return on Sunday, September 9th. The tour begins in Salt Lake City with a group welcome dinner. The following morning the tour departs for Yellowstone National Park for three days touring the geysers (including Old Faithful, Midway, Fountain Paint Pots, Norris and Mammoth Hot Springs); a visit to West Yellowstone; a wildlife Safari and visit to the Grizzly and Wolf Discovery Center; a visit to the upper and lower falls on the Yellowstone River; and a trip to the Grand Teton National Park. A scenic float trip on the Snake River will be included on the fifth day of the trip, along with a stop later at the historic Jackson Lake Lodge. On

the sixth morning the group will return to Salt Lake City for a farewell dinner at The Roof restaurant overlooking Temple Square. Prior to taking an afternoon flight back to Austin, members will enjoy a morning of beautiful music by the Mormon Tabernacle Choir (choir schedule permitting), a fitting conclusion to a fun-filled and comprehensive journey through the majestic mountains of Wyoming, Idaho, and Utah. This trip will officially be made available to RFSA members (and friends) in the early spring, 2018.

Remember that it is always possible to schedule additional days of travel at the beginning or ending of either of these trips. Seattle and Vancouver (including the closeness of Butchart Gardens in Victoria) are spectacular cities to visit, as are Salt Lake City, Utah and Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Arrangements for extending your travels can easily be made with Karen Bluethman, the travel agent that provides RFSA with so many of our trips, or the travel agent of your choice.

The travel interest group also offers tours of local or nearby destinations. See the Dell Medical tour article on page 21 for information on the travel interest group's local tour this semester.

As future tours are planned, announcements will be provided via Carol Barrett with Texas Exes. For more information on upcoming tours you may contact any of these co-chairs:

Mike and Marcia Arn
texmarn@att.net
MJARN50@hotmail.com
512-335-0244

Karen and John Harrison
kjharrison17@gmail.com
512-771-2022

STAY CONNECTED ONLINE

We have two ways for you to stay connected to RFSA online: our RFSA website and our Facebook group.

You can find photos and information about our organization and upcoming events on our website. Our RFSA Magazine is also posted here as soon as it is mailed to members.

Note: UT recently changed the URL of many websites, so be sure you have our new website bookmarked: sites.utexas.edu/rfsa. Please also see the RFSA website for additional digital content under the "Etc." tab. This month, look for more pictures of Ireland, Marcia Arn's complete text on the trip and more eclipse photos.

And if you are a Facebook user, you can access our Facebook page and join us at www.facebook.com/groups/131246400563201/members, or by searching groups for "University of Texas Retired Faculty-Staff Association." We want this to be a place where members can post activities, updates and photos, and not just those about RFSA. We want to create a community for our members to share all kinds of information.

FALL LUNCHEON



RFSA members enjoying food and conversation

We convened at the Etter-Harbin Alumni Center on Oct. 24 for our usual festive fall luncheon courtesy of the President's Office. Members of UT service organizations Texas Cowboys, Silver Spurs, Orange Jackets and Texas Blazers welcomed and assisted all guests, lending a true Longhorn flavor to the proceedings. Wine, beer and soft drinks were available for those who wanted them and all partook in an excellent buffet that included choices for vegetarians and meat-eaters alike, with gluten-free options. RFSA president Tany Norwood began by welcoming us and acknowledging our guests from the UT Staff Toastmasters club whose membership is open to UT staff and retired staff, noting that anyone interested in becoming a better public speaker could stop by their table.

Tany thanked President Greg Fenves and his staff for hosting this luncheon for RFSA. She reminded us that President Peter Flawn officially created RFSA in 1982, and that the Office of the President has supported our organization in many ways, thus recognizing how much UT faculty and staff are valued for their past and continued service. She also thanked the Texas Exes for everything they do for us, including providing their beautiful facilities for our meetings, maintaining our accounts, and designing and printing our magazine. In particular, she thanked Carol Barrett, who works for the Texas Exes but also finds time in her busy schedule to facilitate just about everything for us.

Several representatives of our business sponsors attended the luncheon: Cheryl Dozier and Jamie Chandler from University Federal Credit Union; Jenny Brown from Westminster; Molly Sherman with St. David's HealthCare; and our newest business partner, Dr. Margaret Hutchison and Ron Herzfeld with Austin Hearing Service. Tany asked us to recognize them and thank them.

Then she introduced our speaker Kevin Tuerff, an amazing young UT graduate who had flown in from his new home in New York City just to speak to us. We learned that Kevin started student radio on our campus and worked at Texas Exes. After graduation, he co-founded EnviroMedia, the health and



Kevin Tuerff speaking at the RFSA fall luncheon meeting

environmental marketing firm. Then the events of September 11, 2001, changed his life forever. What Kevin has done since that day was the topic of his inspirational talk. He took us through the diversion to Gander, Newfoundland of his flight from Paris to New York on that day. The welcome he and so many other strangers found in Gander caused him to create Pay It Forward 9/11, an organization whose purpose is to express thankfulness for random acts of kindness by practicing that kindness in turn to others. He also wrote *Channel of Peace: Stranded in Gander on 9/11* about his experience during that momentous time. The story of Gander became "Come From Away," a Tony-award-winning Broadway play, which Tany urged all of us to see. Kevin practices what he preaches. His story was inspirational on both practical and spiritual levels. For more information about Kevin and his charitable work, see www.payitforward911.org.

After Kevin's speech Tany asked all new RFSA members to stand and identify themselves and where they had worked. She introduced the RFSA scholarship 2017 students and thanked them for attending the luncheon and letting us get to know them a little:

Jarrod Chatham
Junior, RTF/Studio Art

Parker Chatham
Junior, RTF/Studio Art

Dante Garcia
Senior, Mechanical Engineering

Andrew Han
Junior, International Relations and Global Studies

Areefa Rahman
Sophomore, Chemistry
Nina Sport

FALL LUNCHEON

Graduate School/Comparative Literature

Mackenzie Thering
Senior, Architectural Engineering

Tany told us that our finances are in good shape, with a total income of \$29,000 and expenses at \$16,300. She said that for the last two years we have been able to transfer some of our operating funds to our scholarship fund and that this year we are setting aside up to \$10,000 to be used as matching funds for donations to our scholarship fund. This means that when you make a donation to the RFSA Scholarship Fund, your donation will be doubled!



(Left to right) Nina Sport, Areefa Rahman, Andrew Han, Mackenzie Thering, Jarrod Chatham, Parker Chatham, and Dante Garcia

Finally, the time came for the much-anticipated Dr. John J. McKetta Attendance award drawing, which produced the following five winners of \$200 each:

Michelle Warech-Philipson (Athletics)
Barbara Wagner (Civil Engineering spouse)
Deena Mersky (School of Social Work)
Linda Peterson (Briscoe Center for American History)
Sharon Hinkle (Payroll Services)

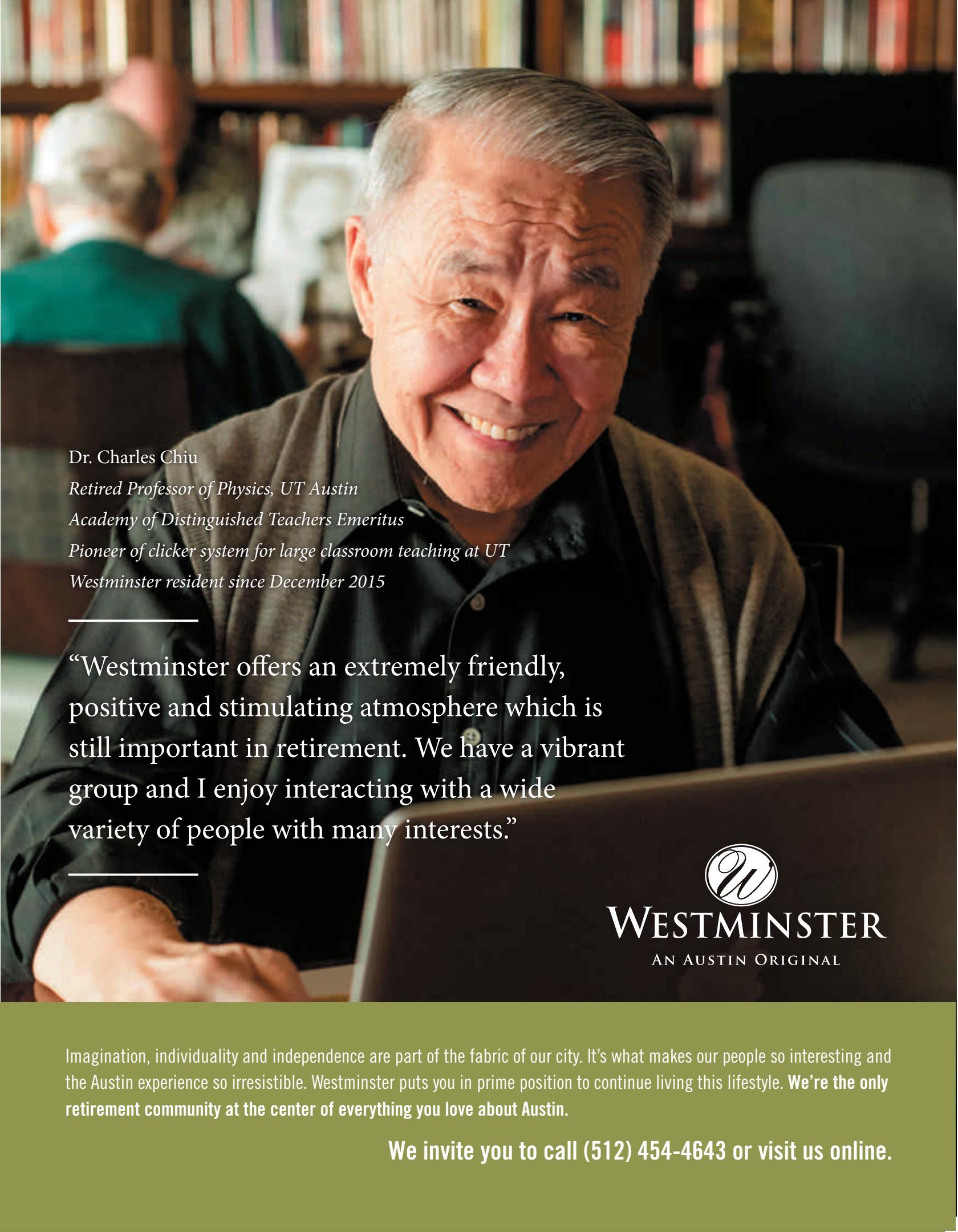
We concluded the meeting with a hearty rendition of “The Eyes of Texas” and went out to enjoy the rest of that lovely fall day.



McKetta Award winners (left to right): Michelle Warech-Philipson; Barbara Wagner; Deena Mersky; Linda Peterson; and Sharon Hinkle



RFSA luncheon attendees sing “The Eyes of Texas”



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PETER TYRELL FLAWN

1926-2017



(Above) Dr. Flawn in his office, March 23, 2013
(Photo courtesy Jackson School of Geosciences)

“When one looks back at the intellectual giants that led the University of Texas, Peter Flawn’s name will be right at the top of the list.” —UT System Chancellor Bill McRaven

Former UT president and administrator, highly respected geology researcher and professor, and longtime RFSA member Peter Tyrell Flawn died on May 7, 2017, at the age of 91. President Flawn supported the suggestion from staff members in 1979 that an association of retired UT faculty and staff be created, and he asked Vice President Shirley Bird Perry to implement the idea and keep him informed. He approved a “Committee of Ten” retirees in 1981 that looked at possible special involvement of retired personnel in the activities of the university. Their recommendations led to the official creation of the UT Retired Faculty-Staff Association in 1982, which President Flawn approved and supported through his office. He joined RFSA after his retirement.

Born in 1926 in Miami, Flawn moved to Ohio after high school to attend Oberlin College where he met his wife Priscilla. He earned his masters and doctorate in geology from Yale University and worked briefly for the U.S. Geological Survey. After seeing a notice on a Yale bulletin board that the Bureau of Economic Geology at The University of Texas at

Austin was offering financial support to students, he took a job at the bureau in 1949; his first assignment became the subject of his doctoral dissertation. He served as director of the Bureau from 1960-1970 (see First Class Assets: PRC on page 31 for more information on BEG.). He became a professor of geological sciences and public affairs in 1970 and later was named the Leonidas T. Barrow Professor of Mineral Resources.

After serving as vice-president for academic affairs at UT Austin from 1972-73 Flawn served as the second president of UT San Antonio from 1973-1977. There he instituted a new core curriculum, higher admission standards and a dramatic increase in the number of endowed faculty positions. During his five-year tenure, Flawn presided over many milestones for the young university, including its first commencement and the opening of its main campus in 1975.

Flawn returned to Austin to become UT’s president in 1979. He declared a “war on mediocrity,” pushing the university to pursue more rigorous academic standards in part by raising the university’s number of faculty endowments from 112 to 851 with the Centennial campaign in the early 1980s. During his six-year tenure as president, sponsored research awards grew significantly and five new research buildings were built. UT honored him by renaming the Academic Center the Peter T. Flawn Academic Center in 1985, when Flawn retired and became president emeritus.

After he left UT, Flawn worked in the private sector. He was

DR. PETER TYRELL FLAWN, 1926-2017



Peter T. Flawn carrying an old LaCoste & Romberg gravity meter during a gravity survey of the Hazel Mine area in Culberson County, Texas, 1951 (Photo courtesy Tyrrell Flawn)



Peter Flawn in front of Flawn Academic Center (Photo by Larry Murphy for University of Texas at Austin News and Information Service, Prints and Photographs Collection, di_11165, Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, The University of Texas at Austin)

involved in the venture capital business and was a key player in Texas' successful bid for the ill-fated superconducting super collider physics research facility. He also sat on various boards of directors, including the Southwest Research Institute, one of the oldest and largest independent, nonprofit, applied research and development organizations in the United States.

Flawn served the university yet again in 1997 when at age 71 he was appointed interim president during the search that culminated in the presidency of Larry Faulkner. Never one to

miss an opportunity, Flawn launched an ambitious \$1 billion capital campaign, "We're Texas" while he was in office.

In 1998, Flawn received the first University of Texas Distinguished Service Award. This award is the Ex-Students' Association's highest honor for a non-alumnus, and it is reserved for persons who have served UT Austin in a profound way. Dr. Flawn was predeceased by his wife Priscilla Pond Flawn in 2016 and his daughter Laura B. Flawn M.D. He is survived by his daughter Tyrrell Flawn and other family members.

RFSA MEMBERS REMEMBER: DR. PETER TYRRELL FLAWN

“ I was the founding director of the UT Center for Teaching Effectiveness, and served from 1973 through 1988. During that time, we interacted with a number of faculty members who came to us for advice. We decided to initiate a one-week summer seminar for new faculty members, and we wanted to pay them a week's salary. I approached President Flawn with the proposal. He looked at me for about a minute, asked a couple of questions, and studied me again in silence for a time. Then he sighed, said, "OK – make it good." And we were off and running.

We DID make it good, and got raves from the participants. I think President Flawn was very pleased with the outcome.

—Jim Stice

“ Dr. Flawn will always remain in my thoughts because in 1980 he approved funding for a new faculty seminar that lasted 5 days and was designed to introduce all new faculty to the campus and to provide them with information that would improve their teaching effectiveness.

I think that Dr. Flawn was very "far sighted" in his support of this program and he deserves a lot of credit for getting it started. The program has changed some over the years, but the primary goal of engaging new faculty members, getting them acquainted with UT and with the latest innovative teaching strategies is ongoing.

Dr. Flawn was such a special man.... truly a gentleman.

—Karron G. Lewis, Ph.D.

“ I went to work at UT to review each college, school and units' VIP's to pass along a list to the President's Office to determine who would be on the Centennial Commission. Years later I retired as Associate Vice President of Development. Along the way, I continued to be awed, not to say scared, of Dr. Flawn. We traveled to various cities that were having Centennial or Advisory Council meetings, and at one point Dr. Flawn asked me to call him Pete. I stuttered that I wasn't sure I could because my parents taught me to call respected people by their proper titles. For the rest of his life, Dr. Flawn called me "MRS. Curtis", never Carolyn again!

—Carolyn Curtis



SOLAR ECLIPSE

LONGHORN STYLE

(Left) This picture has enough magnification to show prominences on the side of the Moon where the Sun is emerging. On the other side, the Sun's image is small enough so that prominences are covered by the Moon. Totality ended a few seconds before this picture was taken.

(Photo by John Kormenday)

Where were you during the solar eclipse on Aug. 21? RFSA members share their stories and photos below.

Phil and Karen Kelton observed the total solar eclipse of Aug. 21, 2017 with several other family members from Karen's brother's back yard in Kearney, Nebraska, using Phil's telescope and solar filter. The house is on the center line of totality, so they were able to see the eclipse without fighting the extra crowds and traffic that were present all across the country for those fortunate enough to be positioned along the region of totality. The weather in Kearney was excellent and the overall experience was awesome. To see photos from Phil and Karen's eclipse experience go to the web version of this article at <http://sites.utexas.edu/rfsa/>. They are now looking forward to the upcoming total eclipse which will pass through Central Texas on April 8, 2024 - put it on your calendar now!

Mary Kay Hemenway said: You might think that with my years of experience as an astronomer, I would have some special scientific interest in solar eclipses. I can recount a few important scientific findings that have been found during eclipses, such as verification of Einstein's prediction that the mass of the sun could bend starlight. But, my experience is not a scientific one, but an almost spiritual one. Science may predict the time and location of a total solar eclipse, but the experience is one of awe. Being prepared with solar eclipse glasses, one can watch the moon slowly cover the face of the sun. As the shape of the sun changes to a crescent, the nearby trees allow pinhole-sized beams of light to cast images of the crescent on nearby surfaces. You start to notice the temperature dropping and the sky color changing to something quite different than an ordinary twilight. Suddenly, the moon nears complete coverage and a few bright rays of sunlight flash out making the "diamond ring" effect. Birds start back for their nests, crickets chirp, the all-around horizon is similar in tone to sunset, the sky darkens enough to see the brighter stars and planets, and the magnificent view of the sun's outer atmosphere - the corona. This is the awe-inspiring part! With the eclipse I viewed in Casper, Wyoming with my cousin and his wife, and four of their friends, I tried taking a couple pictures

(which did not turn out well) and decided to use my two minutes 29 seconds just enjoying the experience. It is hard to put into words the combination of feeling the temperature drop, hearing the response of nature (including the delighted yells of viewers across the city), and seeing the corona surround the sun, the stars, the planets. With binoculars I also saw some red solar prominences on the limb of the sun. It was totally worth an airplane trip to Denver and a several hundred mile drive to Casper. On April 8, 2024, I plan a shorter trip since the eclipse path includes Austin (and if I go closer to the center line of that eclipse, the duration will be over four minutes).

New member and recently retired astronomy professor John Kormendy reported: We were spectacularly lucky with the weather and saw the eclipse in a perfect sky. Forecasts were for mostly cloudy weather, and we had to dodge high cirrus by driving along southern Nebraska's Highway 2 between Hazard and Litchfield, just north of Kearney. Our hotel in Kearney had about one minute 58 seconds of totality, but we managed to drive along essentially the center of the Moon's shadow path to a clear place where totality lasted 2.5 minutes. Shortly before totality, the last cirrus clouds drifted by. During totality and for about 20 minutes before and afterward, it was completely clear.

We found an ideal spot on a tiny side-road south of Hwy 2, looking over a forest (for good seeing) and with no other people in sight. The eclipse was spectacular. To me, the most impressive aspect was that this drama happened (of course) in **complete** silence. In this age of pervasive noise and explosive Hollywood movies and TV, the contrast between the spectacle and the silence made an unforgettable impression.

August Petersen wrote: I spent all day of Aug. 21st hiking throughout Arches National Park in Utah. While not in the path of totality, the solar eclipse was about 80% and at its late morning peak the skies dimmed and temperatures cooled down noticeably on an otherwise bright and warm day.

But the most memorable aspect was the international festival-like atmosphere among those people hiking the park. People were there from all over the U.S. and the world and there

SOLAR ECLIPSE, LONGHORN STYLE



Elliptical shadows made by the eclipse refracted through leaves of a tree
(Photo by Mary Kay Hemenway)



John Kormenday pointing the camera a few minutes before totality. The camera is stopped down to a pinhole aperture with a piece of cardboard
(Photo by Mary Kormenday)

was a wonderful holiday spirit exhibited by everyone there. Many folks had brought their special tinted glasses and were sharing them with everyone who wanted to view the eclipse. Everyone was in a very jovial, happy mood.

Your editor was fortunate enough to have been invited to an eclipse party at the Charles Schwab main office at 5th and Congress in downtown Austin. Along with our free eclipse glasses, we enjoyed Blue Moon beer, Sun Chips, and special eclipse cookies from Sweetish Hill. I was able to get two pairs of eclipse glasses from Schwab so that I could watch the first part from their fifth floor terrace and then rush to my sister's house to give her and her granddaughter a chance to view the second half of the solar phenomenon with the glasses I pro-

vided. Being only three, said granddaughter was not too interested, but sis and I had a good time—both with the glasses and watching the elliptical shadows made by sun shining through the leaves. And it was really a community experience; on the way from downtown I saw many people on sidewalks and in their yards looking skyward just like I was.



This most nearly shows what we saw with the naked eye. In an almost-dark sky, the pearly glow of the corona surrounding the absolutely black, perfect circle of the Moon was very dramatic. The world around us had gone silent. Even the birds stopped chirping. (Photo by John Kormendy)

For more of John's photos and additional information about the images and his eclipse adventure, visit <http://chandra.as.utexas.edu/eclipse2017.html>



August Petersen at Arches National Park (Photo by Patsy Petersen)

RFSA Board Fall Meeting and Retreat



The RFSA board gathered for a board meeting and retreat on Sept. 13 at the Texas Exes. Among the topics discussed were how to increase our scholarship fund. We decided to use some of our current operating funds to offer the opportunity for matching members' contributions to the scholarship fund, thus doubling the impact of these gifts (see details on page 24). We also discussed how to raise our profile in the Longhorn community overall, including with the President's Office that generously supports so much of our work.

Gwen Grigsby, recently retired UT legislative liaison, spoke to us on how the famously infamous Texas Legislature works

(or not). Her news about this past session was good in a way because UT got more money. However, she also told us that she felt the division between Republicans and Democrats was more tense than she had ever seen it. UT and retirees depend on the legislature for much of our necessary funds for education and retiree benefits so her legislative overview was insightful. We congratulated her on her service and wished her well as she makes the transition from the intense political environment to private life.

We also talked about the nuts and bolts of running our organization, including whether we should allow more time for the speakers at our lunches, increasing our membership and member involvement, general outreach such as participation in the UT Health/Lifestyle Expos, and RFSA involvement with the Hearts of Texas Campaign. Several board members volunteered to work on developing and refining the RFSA Mission Statement and a brief "elevator speech" version of who we are and what we do. We also discussed the process of filling vacant positions on the board. Anyone interested in becoming more involved is encouraged to contact President Tany Norwood at tanynorwood@utexas.edu.

UT Health/Lifestyle Expo



Cecil Martinez, Clemith Houston, and Peggy Kruger staff the RFSA booth at the UT Health/Lifestyle Expo

On July 25, RFSA members Ruth Rubio, Nancy Payne, Sharon Justice, Mary Kay Hemenway, Cecil Martinez, Peggy Kruger, Linda Peterson, and Clemith Houston participated in an outreach opportunity at the UT Health/Lifestyle Expo at Gregory Gym on the UT main campus. The 2017 Health and Lifestyle Expo provided opportunities for UT Austin employees and retirees to learn more about the UT Benefits program and Annual Enrollment, as well as other benefits offered on and off campus. Various tables provided information about topics such as meditation, nutrition, therapy dogs, green liv-

ing, and home improvement for better, more healthful living—including membership in the Retired Faculty-Staff Association.

This year we were glad to see another appearance by the Divine Canines service dogs as well as two vendors who provided free chair massages. Our table was popular with both soon-to-be retirees and aspiring retirees. We even met a few UT retirees that did not know about RFSA but expressed sincere interest. Cecil made some valuable business contacts with future advertising revenue potential, and Linda met with a representative of Texas Student Media who asked for a pdf of the current issue of RFSA Magazine for potential inclusion as a link on their web site. It was a lively event, with the large number of vendors attesting to the importance of UT to health and finance-related businesses in Austin and nationally. UT Health/Lifestyle Expo is well worth an hour of your time to check out all these options (and pick up a bag full of rather outstanding swag free for the taking).

On Oct. 20, Peggy Mueller, Peggy Krueger, and Linda Peterson staffed the RFSA booth at the UT Health/Lifestyle Expo at the Pickle Research Campus Commons Learning Center. It was as lively (if not more so) than the one on the main campus in July. We did not see the Divine Canines this time, but massages were offered and attendees showed intense interest in our group. We handed out lots of brochures, pepper-

ments and RFSA magazines to UT staffers from the Applied Research Labs, the Center for Research in Water Resources, the Imaging Research Center and more. Several people who work at the Non-vertebrate Paleontology Lab in turn tried to

recruit us to volunteer in their lab—we will definitely follow up on this. These events are a great opportunity to reach out to the UT community and raise the profile of our organization. Please consider volunteering at one or both of them next year.

Dell Medical School Tour



RFSA tour members in front of "Spiral of the Galaxy"

On Friday, July 14th, approximately 40 RFSA members participated in an hour-long tour of the Health Learning Building on the Dell Medical School campus. A Dell staffer met us in the parking garage foyer and gave us an introductory talk before we walked about three blocks to our LEED certified destination. We passed a building with vertical "shades" that stuck out to keep sunlight away from windows, and crossed over Waller Creek. Before we started our tour of the building, most of us gathered in front of the golden Spiral of the Galaxy for a group photograph. This seven-ton sculpture by Marc Quinn is a part of UT's Landmarks public art program.

The Health Learning Building is the primary home for students and faculty on the Dell campus. It welcomed its first 50 students (90% of them are residents of Texas) to the inaugural class in June 2016. Our tour consisted primarily of visits throughout this building, including a walk through the Dean's Terrace, which spans its length and has three huge oak trees that were saved from the area during construction and moved there. The building is designed to be used for numerous functions: the Patient Simulation Laboratory/mock clinic (using

actors posing as patients); the Anatomy Laboratory using the best of modern medical education, including the use of human cadavers (no we didn't actually see any!); a Virtual Library staffed by a librarian and consisting of work stations with online access to the current medical literature and every other digital resource the university provides (no books); Group Collaboration Meeting Rooms of various sizes to accommodate both large and small groups; an Interactive Auditorium seating 120; and a lounge/kitchen with a meeting room behind it. The auditorium seating is configured to be flexible, allowing for lectures as well as small working groups. Each floor has a window-lined hallway along the side of the building with a view of the Dell Seton Medical Center. The upper floors have a great view of the top of the stadium. Many informal seating areas offer opportunities for students and faculty to interact on an informal basis. Sculptures by Seymour Lipton (also provided through Landmarks) give added visual interest to the space.

The trees that could not be saved from the construction site were used to make the desks in the donor hall and other areas, as well as some flooring and other items made from this reclaimed wood. The altar, chair, floor, and wall pieces located in the beautiful chapel in the Medical Center outpatient area that a few of us visited after the tour were made from this wood.

Everyone on the tour was suitably impressed. An additional tour was scheduled in November. It included visits to some departments not available during the July tour. Information regarding future tour(s) will be sent to RFSA members as it is received from the Development Office of the Dell Medical School. For members who wish to have a more ongoing relationship with Dell Medical, please see "Vital Signs" at: <https://medium.com/vital-signs-signature-course/lectures-abea215c9ecb>.

There you will find dates, times, and locations of lectures that are open to the public, as well as summaries and videos of past lectures. This series is just one of the myriad ways that Dell Medical School is reaching out to our community.



MYSTERY PHOTO ANSWER REVEALED

The actress is Farah Fawcett (she is the one standing by the mirror). The photo was taken in 1967 and the location is Mayfair House. This photo is included in the UT Texas Student Publications photo archive at the Briscoe Center for American History. Wanda Cash gets top bragging rights because she not only identified Farah Fawcett but also the location. Well done, Wanda! Helen Spear and Sharon Justice were able to identify Farah Fawcett. Congratulations to all three winners. We will have another mystery photo in the spring issue, so those of you who missed out on this one will have another chance to shine. Stay tuned!



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For more locations, visit UFCU.org.

The Retired Faculty-Staff Association created a scholarship fund in 1983 and awarded the first scholarship five years later in 1988. Members and friends donate to that endowment, which has a current market value of over \$921,685. Available income from that fund varies, depending on prevailing interest rates and market conditions. This year's recipients include our first set of twins, both RTF majors; an aspiring attorney; a graduate student who sees her PhD in Comparative Literature as the track to a professorship while writing Young Adult novels in her spare time; several future engineers (one of whom likes to design Formula 1 race cars); a woman who plans to use her chosen field of dentistry with an additional credit of Master of Public Health to educate the wider population on

the importance of preventative dental care because her Lebanese-born parents suffered from not having access to this kind of information and care; and many more. For full statements and photos from these amazing young people see: utexas.edu/rfsa/meet-our-2017-18-scholarship-recipients/.

The UT Office of Student Financial Services selects recipients based on merit and financial need. Among the scholarships awarded are those named in honor of the following: Dr. Stanley Arbingast, Dr. William T. (Bill) Belt, Dr. Peter and Priscilla Flawn, Drs. Benjamin and Dorothy Fruchter, Dr. Robert E. Greenwood, Dr. Margaret Colyer Kirkner, and Dr. John and Helen McKetta.

2017-18 Recipients

Rebecca Lee Byington
Graduate School of Social Work

Jarrod E. Chatham
Junior, RTF/Studio Art

Parker E. Chatham
Junior, RTF/Studio Art

Joseph Aaron Cobon
Sophomore, Philosophy

Aislinn Rose Day
Sophomore, RTF

Shreya Dhar
Sophomore, Mechanical Engineering

Dante Daniel Garcia
Senior, Mechanical Engineering

Andrew Yoonho Han
Junior, International Relations and Global Studies

Julianne Jo Masabni
Senior, Health Promotion/PreMed

Ann Nguyen
Sophomore, Arts and Entertainment Technologies

Nicole Marie Pagliai
Sophomore, Music Studies - Instrumental Emphasis

Ariel S. Pitre-Young
Sophomore, Government

Areefa Ameena Rahman
Sophomore, Chemistry

Vasilios Sotiropoulos
Sophomore, Mechanical Engineering

Nina Marie Sport
Graduate School/Comparative Literature

Mackenzie Leigh Thering
Senior, Architectural Engineering

Nadia Elizabeth Quintero
Senior, Economics/Finance

Weijun Tang
Senior, Professional Program in Accounting

RFSA Scholarship Contributions

Gifts received from May 1 - Oct. 31, 2017

Dorothea K. Adams

In honor of Carol Barrett

Judith Amis

In memory of Scott Amis

Thomas Barnes

Michael H. Corley

In memory of Linward P. Shivers

Augustine J. Cunningham

(two donations)

Donald G. Davis, Jr.

Darlene Gavenda

In memory of Dwain Estes

Lita Guerra

In memory of Professor Dalies Frantz

Bretna Hackert

Cora L. Hilliard

In honor of John J. McKetta

JoAnn H. Jentz

In memory of Mary Louise Crum

In memory of Chester M.

McKinney, Jr.

Sharon Justice

In memory of Dean Justice

Ronald W. Massey

Joyce McClendon

Colleen Mathews Mehner

(two donations)

Judith C. Morris

Peggy Mueller

In memory of Frank Michalak, Jr.

Lala Niemeyer

Linda A. Peterson

In honor of Nina Marie Sport, 2017

RFSA Scholarship Recipient

Hazel M. Pipkin

Ruth J. Rubio

In memory of Rudolph and Mary

Louise Rubio

Beverly O. Shivers

(2 donations)

John T. Tongate

Dr. and Mrs. Joseph F. Willman

In memory of Chester M.

McKinney, Jr.

Drs. Man-Li and Ching Hsie Yew

CONTRIBUTE TO RFSA SCHOLARSHIPS

RFSA members and friends are encouraged to contribute to the Scholarship Fund, RFSA's main service project, which helps support deserving UT students. In addition to undesignated donations, the scholarship endowment benefits from gifts made in memory or honor of family, friends and colleagues; in celebration of particular events; and estate donations.

Please consider making a contribution to the scholarship fund – it will make a difference in a student's life!

SEND A CHECK TO*: Carol Barrett, RFSA Coordinator
Texas Exes • P.O. Box 7278

Austin, Texas 78713

*Made payable to 'The University of Texas at Austin'

OR, DONATE ONLINE: <http://giving.utexas.edu/RFSA2012>

If you are donating in honor or memory of a person or event, write that information in the "notes" section.

On the left side of the page, "Retired Faculty-Staff Association" and "Amount" will show. Fill in your gift amount. Then complete the information on the right side of the page. Indicate if the gift is a memorial or honorary gift by clicking on the "Yes" button; add the individual(s) name(s) and indicate whether it is an "Honorary" or "Memorial" gift. In the text box, add any special information about your gift AND the name and address of the person(s) to be notified of your gift.

**Double your
donation to
the scholarship
fund!**

Starting Oct. 24, 2017, RFSA will provide one-to-one matching funds from its operating budget for donations to the RFSA Scholarship Fund, up to a total amount of \$10,000.

All donations beyond the matching funds of \$10,000 will still be welcomed.

RFSA VISITS IRELAND

by Marcia Arn and Peggy Mueller



*Montbretia at Glenbeigh in County Kerry
(Photo by Peggy Mueller)*



Ireland tour group (Photo by Moriarty Photo Store, Killarney)

23 RFSA members and guests and 17 others, including a honeymoon couple, spent 11 days traveling through Ireland and Northern Ireland, Aug. 22 through Sep. 3, 2017. Flying from Austin to Dulles and then on a transatlantic overnight flight, we were met at the Dublin airport by John Hogan, our tour director, and Tom O'Flaherty, our coach driver. The first evening we had dinner in a pub and were entertained by a band playing traditional Irish instruments. Rachel, one of the band members, treated us to Irish step dancing and a brush (broom) dance.

We toured Dublin with a local guide and saw historic Geor-

gian four-story townhouses built in the late 1700s and early 1800s. The exteriors are protected and cannot be changed; the interiors have been remodeled and many are used as offices for tech companies. The exterior front door of each townhouse is painted in a different color (blue, red, yellow, black, green) so the men of earlier times could find their own home after the pub! The next stop was the beautiful St. Patrick's Cathedral, which was originally a Catholic Church first erected in 1190, but after the Reformation became Anglican/Church of England. Later we visited 1700-acre Phoenix Park, where we saw playing fields, trails, picnic areas, lakes, a zoo,



Waterford Crystal factory tour (Photo by Marcia Arn)



Blarney Castle (Photo by Marcia Arn)



Kissane Sheep Farm shepherd with his dogs and sheep (Photo by Mark Bierner)

the home of the U.S. ambassador to Ireland and the residence of the president of Ireland (plus great soft serve ice cream). Several group members visited Trinity College Library to see its fabulous collection of rare books and manuscripts, including the Book of Kells. We boarded the bus to Guinness Storehouse, where everyone was offered a free sample of Guinness beer. Next stop was Kilkenny, where some members visited the grand Kilkenny Castle built in 1195. Next we drove south to Waterford and toured the House of Waterford Crystal factory and learned how their crystal products are made (and had purchasing opportunities in the showroom).

We stopped at the top of a hill overlooking the countryside and the Irish/Celtic Sea near Dungarven. We had good weather! There were green fields with fenced hedgerows. The hedgerows provide a place for wildlife to live and keep the cattle and sheep inside the pasture. On the south coast, we passed through the town of Youghal (pronounced like Y'all), the first Irish town where Vikings lived in the 11th century. We visited County Cork and the Blarney Castle and Gardens. Several of



Jaunting Cars (Photo by Mark Bierner)

us climbed the spiral stairs to the top of Blarney Castle to kiss (or not) the Blarney Stone. The grounds were beautiful and full of different areas to explore, including a Poison Garden filled with poisonous plants. The landscaping in this location is famous for the different flowers, ferns, waterfalls, shrubs and trees that exemplify the variety of flora in Ireland.

The next morning we began the Ring of Kerry tour which goes around the Iveragh Peninsula in County Kerry on the west side of Ireland. We started at the northeast end and passed seven Ogham stones in a group. These upright stones marked land boundaries or burial sites. Ogham was the first form of Irish writing and dates back to the 3rd century A.D. We stopped in Waterville on the tip of the peninsula on the Atlantic Ocean side for a break. Here we saw a statue of Charlie Chaplin, who with his family loved the hospitality of Waterville and the Butler Arms Hotel. His children still visit and there is a Chaplin Festival held each year.

Our next stop, the Kissane Sheep Farm, is a working farm that has been owned by the same family for 200 years. Fifth generation sheepherder John and his young son Sean demonstrated herding the sheep with their black and white border collies Max, Pete and the puppy, Sweet, who was still in training. The land was rocky and hilly; the dogs moved the sheep perfectly to John's spoken and whistled commands. We watched a sheep shearer expertly demonstrating his craft on one of the sheep, using long hand shears first around the head, neck and forelegs, then electric shears to finish the job. After shearing, he inoculated the sheep. He used an iron dipped in red paint to mark a K (the farm's brand) and a spot with red paint to show the sheep had been inoculated. We also learned about lanolin products and wool production and sales.

The towns in Ireland have a friendly annual competition called "Tidy Towns". Winners in each population category are chosen at the beginning of September. The towns clean up and have flowers planted in window boxes, yards and around the perimeters of houses or buildings. We consistently marveled at the flowers and shrubs – hydrangeas of every color, often three or more colors on one shrub, begonias of every color



Three-colored hydrangeas (Photo by Marcia Arn)



Peace Bridge (Photo by Marcia Arn)



Irish farms with hedgerows (Photo by Marcia Arn)

and size, snapdragons, roses, poppies, petunias, periwinkles, agapanthus, baskets hanging from lampposts and second story windows, full of colorful blooms. The Tidy Towns winners have bragging rights and everyone benefits from the clean-up and beautification. The cities were full of beautiful flowers and landscaping in parks, open areas, roundabouts and around statues. As we traveled the countryside we saw wild-flowers like montbretia, thistles, fuchsias, heather, gorse and many unnamed species in full bloom.

The “Jaunting Cars” (horse-drawn carriages seating 8), driven by “jarveys” took us on a ride through Killarney National Park, along a narrow road for foot traffic and the carts. The horses pulling the jaunting cars were crosses between Clydesdales and Irish draft horses, much smaller than Clydesdales. Several of the jarveys possessed the gift of blarney. We continued between the green grass and trees, and saw streams, fields with black Kerry cows, and the Killarney Lower Lakes. Back on the bus we passed wind turbines along the coastal points where ocean winds keep them running. Our bus took a ferry

across the Shannon Estuary and drove to the Cliffs of Moher and the ocean, both shrouded in mist. That evening we visited the 14th century Knappogue Castle for a traditional medieval dinner and entertainment.

As we left Galway, John pointed out trees within the dry-stacked stone fence borders or in the middle of a field. These hawthorn and whitethorn trees are known in Ireland as fairy trees. It is believed to be extremely bad luck to cut one down because fairies live in and beside them. The Irish spent 100,000 Euros rerouting a new road when no one would cut down the fairy tree in its way. We crossed the border into Northern Ireland and spent the night in Enniskillen. As we drove along tiny narrow and curving roads the next day, we saw fields of heather growing in and on peat bogs. We arrived in Derry and saw the Peace Bridge and had a walking tour with Ryan, a local guide. Republic of Ireland supporters call the city Derry; the British supporters call the city Londonderry and it is also called the Walled City because it had a wall built from 1613 to 1618 to protect the city against English and Scottish invaders. Ryan told us about “The Troubles” involving the IRA, the British and other groups fighting over territorial, nationalistic, historical, ethnic and other issues (1968-1998).

We next traveled into County Donegal (Ireland) to Malin Head, the northernmost point of Ireland on the Atlantic Ocean. It was a clear day (our coach driver and our guide both said they had never seen it so clear) with a bright blue sky and white clouds. Iceland was to the left and Scotland was to the right. It was windy and chilly at the point so we stopped at Farren’s Bar to warm up with Irish coffee and Tay-tos (potato chips). The new Star Wars movie’s opening sequence was filmed there and the building has Yoda painted on its outside wall.

Most of the farms in Ireland are about 100 acres and have been owned by the same family for generations. We did pass one farm of about 800 acres. The borders of the pastures were marked by hedgerows and dry-stacked stones. We saw barley fields and grass for silage to feed cattle and sheep and other crops like corn, maize, potatoes (yes, we had potatoes



Jean Harrison at Malin Head (Photo by Marcia Arn)



Giant's Causeway (Photo by Mike Arn)



Titanic Museum (Photo by Marcia Arn)

at almost every great meal and in every form including hash browns, chips, fried, roasted, boiled, mashed, scalloped and more). The sheep were all marked with red, blue, pink or yellow brands. We also saw cattle, mostly Friesians (Holsteins in the U.S.) used to make butter for the wonderful Irish breads at every meal and milk for everything else, plus Limousin, Angus, Charolais and other breeds. We spotted a few horses, including Connemara ponies.

We left Derry and traveled east along the coast to Giant's Causeway where we saw the "causeway" consisting of many interlocking hexagonal basalt columns like a geometric puzzle in the ocean, the result of an ancient volcanic eruption some 60 million years ago. We stopped on the northeast corner of Ireland at a lookout over the Irish Sea where we could see Rathlin Island and the shadows of Scotland twelve miles away.

On our last full day we had a traditional Irish breakfast and toured Belfast, an industrial city that built ships including the Britannic and the Titanic. We visited the magnificent Titanic Museum, built to architecturally and visually symbolize the Titanic. The exhibits and graphics are extremely effective and lovely – this museum is not to be missed. We also went to the

area where the worst fighting in the 1970s ("The Troubles") occurred.

We crossed back to Ireland on our way to Kingscourt and Cabra Castle for our last night's stay. The grounds and castle were very large and impressive. Some of us witnessed the third or fourth wedding reception we had seen during our travels – the bride and groom with guests in lovely clothes and fascinator hats. To complete the picture, a long red carpet from the roadway up several steps and landings showed the way to the reception. An Irish wolfhound was at the foot of the red carpet. At the top, a bagpiper wearing a kilt serenaded the new bride and groom.

We had our farewell dinner on the third floor of the castle and our guide, John, told us we were his favorite group. Privately he told Marcia we really were his favorite group because we all melded together and got along very well, plus we were fun. One of the folks from New York (not RFSA) thanked us for being so welcoming and accepting of the others on our trip. Nearly all of us would have liked a few more days for our complete circle of the island. We left from the Dublin airport with memories of a wonderful experience.



Kilkenny Castle (Photo by Jack Endicott)



Dungarven by the Irish Sea (Photo by Jack Endicott)



The Other 40 Acres: UT's J. J. Pickle Research Campus

by Linda Peterson

(Above) Stampede2 supercomputer at PRC (Photo by Marsha Miller)

Make that 475 Acres—it has to be big to contain all the components that make it such a stellar first class asset. The J. J. Pickle Research Campus (PRC) is the nearest of UT's satellite research campuses and yet it is perhaps the least known. Located 9 miles north of the central campus and admittedly off the beaten path, PRC employs up to 1000 research scientists, graduate students and support personnel and is home to a vast array of diverse projects, labs, classrooms, and storage facilities. These run the gamut from old and venerable (Bureau of Economic Geology) to relatively young and trendy (Texas Advanced Computing Center). Their mandates go from solving ancient mysteries (Vertebrate Paleontology Research Lab) to producing the next big thing (IC²). That stands for Innovation-Creativity-Capital, in case you wondered. I did, so I asked.

The history of the PRC begins with defense research in the Cold War era, at a repurposed magnesium plant built by the federal government on the current site. Declared surplus after the war, this facility came to the attention of UT engineering professors C. Read Granberry and J. Neils Thompson. At their urging, the university signed a lease agreement with an option to purchase the plant from the War Assets Administration in 1945. This agreement gave the university use of the original 402 acres and 29 buildings, representing a total of 216,000 square feet of space. In 1949, with the help of then-Congressman Lyndon B. Johnson, the university negotiated a contract to purchase the property, which was renamed Balcones Research Center in 1953.

The Applied Research Laboratories was the largest activity at the Center by 1968. It combined the Military Physics Research Laboratory and the Defense Research Laboratory, which had been developed on campus to work on radar, un-

derwater acoustics, and surface-to-air guided missiles for the navy. Other early components included the Electrical Engineering Research Laboratory, which researched radio waves for the United States Office of Scientific Research and Development during World War II, and the Nuclear Physics Research Laboratory, which operated an atom smasher at the site.

The university obtained clear title to the property in 1971 from the federal government and increased its holdings via purchase to a total of 475 acres. At that time the research and development features of the center included a power supply exceeding that of the entire campus of The University of Texas in a single building. The facility was renamed the J. J. Pickle Research Campus in 1994, in honor of Congressman Pickle's support for the center and his ongoing efforts on its behalf.

Because much of the research done at Pickle is sensitive in nature, it is a closed campus, with access restricted to parking permit holders and expected guests. In 2003 Simon Properties leased 46 acres of unused PRC land from UT to build the Domain and the Arbor Walk. It seems this land is charmed—everything done on it leads to innovation and success. And there is room for quite a bit more, with plans in the works to eventually make PRC a full-fledged UT campus.

As the nearest satellite in the Longhorn galaxy, Pickle is currently home to:

Applied Research Labs (ARL): Since 1945, ARL has been engaged in sponsored research, much of it related to the Department of Defense and dedicated to improving our national security through applications of acoustics, electromagnetics, and information sciences.

In September 2017, the Department of the Navy awarded ARL \$1.1 billion—the largest research contract in the histo-



Pickle Research Campus in 1961 (Photo courtesy Commons Learning Center)

ry of the university. The grant will fund ongoing research in ARL-UT's core areas of sonar, satellite navigation and cyber security.

Petroleum Extension Service (PETEX): PETEX provides training courses and content to oil and gas industry participants. It also develops e-product solutions for employees in these areas.

Texas Advanced Computing Center (TACC): TACC designs and operates some of the world's most powerful computing resources. The center's mission is to advance science and society through the application of advanced computing technologies. Currently it is running on Stampede2, the most powerful academic supercomputer in the U.S., along with its predecessors Stampede1 and Maverick. Recently TACC has been in the news for its role in tracking the paths of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma.

Texas Archaeological Research Laboratory (TARL): TARL is the largest archeological repository in the state. A nationally recognized archeological research facility, its mission is to collect, preserve, and curate archeological specimens and records, train students, conduct archeological research, and disseminate information about the archaeological resources of Texas.

Vertebrate Paleontology Research Laboratory (VPL): VPL's collections are the principal repository for vertebrate fossils collected from state and federal lands in Texas and contiguous areas, as well as for specimens collected elsewhere using state and federal funds. Its mission is three-fold, involving research, conservation and education pertaining to the history of vertebrates. VPL is also a key player in technological development via its involvement with the UT High Resolution X-ray Computer Tomography Facility.

Austin Technology Incubator (ATI): ATI is the startup incubator of The University of Texas at Austin. A program of the University's IC² Institute, it serves as a networking facilitator for successful Austin tech entrepreneurs, executives,



Pickle Research Campus, 1999 (Courtesy of University of Texas at Austin)

investors, technologists, and other professionals.

Bureau of Economic Geology (BEG): Established in 1909 and a part of the Jackson School of Geosciences, BEG functions as the State Geological Survey of Texas. It conducts and disseminates research focusing on the intersection of energy, the environment, and the economy. The late Peter Flawn's first job at UT was as a researcher at BEG in 1949. He served as the unit's director from 1960 to 1970.

Center for Energy and Environmental Resources (CEER): CEER focuses its research on efficient and economical use of energy and cooperates with industry to develop processes and technologies that minimize waste and conserve natural resources. Established in 1974, CEER collaborates on research projects, supports graduate students, and stimulates educational activities related to energy.

Center for Research in Water Resources (CRWR): This unit carries out advanced research, education, design, and planning in water resources, treatment processes, and waste management for Texas and elsewhere.

Center for Space Research (CSR): Established in 1981, CSR conducts research in orbit determination, space geodesy, the Earth and its environment, and exploration of the solar system. It also works to expand the scientific applications of space systems data. Projects include investigations associated with fishery, agriculture, mapping ocean circulation, improving models of the Earth's gravity field, environmental impacts of oil spills, oil exploration and drilling operations, and weather forecasting.

Commons Learning Center (CLC): With the motto "Changing the world one meeting at a time," the CLC offers meeting space, the latest technology for presentations and delicious dining complemented by an exceptional staff. CLC serves the university and the broader Austin community.

Construction Industry Institute (CII): CII is a consortium of owner, engineering-contractor, and supplier firms that work together to enhance the business effectiveness and



(Left) Incised effigy on ground and polished quartz crystal (image 16SA48-209) from the Coral Snake Mound in Sabine Parish, Louisiana. excavated by UT-Austin in 1964-65 at Toledo Bend Reservoir (Accession number TARL 1965.0004); length 9.1 cm. (Photo courtesy TARL)

sustainability of the capital facility life cycle through research, related initiatives, and industry alliances.

Construction Materials Research Group (CMRG):

CMRG is dedicated to advancing the state of the art

in construction materials technology and concrete durability through research and development.

Ferguson Structural Engineering Laboratory (FSEL): FSEL consists of a structural test facility and a wide range of loading equipment, enabling large-scale studies of structural behavior. The results of these studies are translated into practice with the goals of improving the durability of the civil infrastructure, assessing the response of structures under fire, blast, and impact loads, and developing new capabilities in nondestructive testing.

Field Systems and Construction Automation Laboratory (FSCAL): This unit focuses on the development of sensing, information, and automation technology for the construction industry and the effective application principles and business strategies for implementation.

IC² Institute Global Commercialization Group (GCG): GCG facilitates the growth and development of innovative technology-based businesses in a variety of regions worldwide. Program design is informed by thirty-seven years of research and methodology development at UT's IC² Institute.

The Imaging Research Center (IRC): IRC is an interdisciplinary facility that specializes in non-invasive neuroimaging. Crucial to this method is a new Siemens Skyra 3T MRI scanner used by many researchers for studies of human perception, memory, decision-making, and behavior. The facility also contains a number of resources for imaging-informed fabrication and machining.

Institute for Geophysics (UTIG): Since its founding in 1972, UTIG has been a world leader in expeditionary-scale geophysical research, conducting research into climate, energy, marine geosciences, seismology and tectonophysics, and planetary and polar geophysics.

Institute of Classical Archaeology (ICA): Established in 1978, ICA performs multi-disciplinary archaeological research projects in ancient Greek colonies in southern Italy and on the Black Sea coast of Ukraine.

Microelectronics Research Center (MRC): Funded by grants from the National Science Foundation, the MRC per-



Surveying on the RVIB Palmer in 2014 offshore the Sabrina Coast, Aurora subglacial basin, East Antarctica (Photo by Sean Gulick)

forms education, research, and development in materials and electronic devices.

NASCENT Center: The Nanomanufacturing Systems for Mobile Computing and Mobile Energy Technologies Center (NASCENT) is working to develop nanomanufacturing systems to bring nanoscience discoveries from the lab to the marketplace and shape the future of mobile computing and mobile energy devices.

Non-vertebrate Paleontology Laboratory (NPL): NPL was created in 1999 with a mission to conserve, curate, and make accessible, collections from early state surveys and from research at the Bureau of Economic Geology, the Department of Geological Sciences, the Texas Memorial Museum, and a number of other sources both public and private. Its collections, which contain over 4 million fossil invertebrates and plants, microfossils, rocks, minerals, meteorites and tektites, continue to grow through the research of UT faculty, staff and students.

Nuclear and Radiation Engineering Program: This unit's Nuclear Engineering Teaching Lab provides education, research, problem solving, and service in nuclear science and engineering. It is a part of the Cockrell School of Engineering.

Is your head spinning yet? Suffice it to say all of these components keep UT on the leading edge of technology and environmental innovation, as well as preserving the fossil records and cultures of the distant past – not to mention the enormous resource that Pickle's applied science and engineering hotspots play in the economic life of Austin and the world.

Oh—and in case you've been wondering where so many of the books in our campus libraries went—they are out at Pickle too, in the Long Term Storage Facility silos, all million plus of them and counting.

IN MEMORIAM

This column honors the memory of active and retired University of Texas at Austin and University of Texas System faculty and staff whose deaths have been made known to us between May 1, 2017 and Oct. 31, 2017. Every attempt has been made to identify the university affiliation of each individual or their contributions to the university community. Also included, when known, are spouses of retired faculty and staff members. Any additions or corrections to the list should be addressed to Barbara Frock, Historian, at bfrock@austin.rr.com.

Lillian Anderson, 97

Widow of Lynn F. Anderson, Professor Emeritus of Public Affairs, LBJ School of Public Affairs
April 28, 2017

Norton L. Armour, J.D., 87

Lecturer, School of Social Work
September 5, 2017

Tracy Fehlis Aycock, 97

Assistant Professor, Home Economics
June 16, 2017

Juanita Smart

Benzer, 77
Senior Administrative Associate, Learning Technology Center, College of Education
July 15, 2017

William R. Braisted, Ph.D., 99

Professor Emeritus, History Department
June 14, 2017

Alvin Bruce Buckman, 75

Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering
May 15, 2017

Dr. Vicente Calabulg Cantarino, 92

Professor, Department of Spanish and Portuguese
August 7, 2017

Frank Crump

Lyons, Jr., 91
Staff, Applied Research Laboratories
June 25, 2017

Richard Gary

Daniels, 79
Adjunct Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering
May 22, 2017

Wayne Allen

Danielson, Ph.D., 87
Dean Emeritus and Dewitt C. Reddick Regents Chair in Communication, Moody College of Communication, Professor Emeritus, School of Journalism
October 31, 2017

Theodore

Delevoryas, 87
Professor Emeritus, Department of Botany
June 29, 2017

Cécile Dewitt-

Morette, 94
Jane and Roland Blumberg Centennial Professor Emerita, Physics Department
May 8, 2017

Arthur H. "Art" Dilly, 88

Executive Secretary Emeritus, Board of Regents
June 14, 2017

Cicero "Jack"

Dukes, Jr., 87
Supervisor, Mail Room
September 29, 2017

Blanche Edmondson, 85

Widow of Don Edmondson, Professor Emeritus, Math Department
October 1, 2017

Don Edmondson, 91

Professor Emeritus, Math Department
May 22, 2017

Chris Edmondson-

Yurkanan, 55
Senior Lecturer, Computer Sciences
May 23, 2017

Kenneth Burch

Fiske, 88
Professor Emeritus, Art Department
June 10, 2017

Peter Flawn, 91

UT Austin President Emeritus and Professor Emeritus, Geological Sciences
May 7, 2017

Miguel Gonzalez-

Gerth, 90
Professor Emeritus, Spanish and Comparative Literature
June 20, 2017

Olive M. Graham, 73

Producer, KUT Center for Telecommunication Services
November 12, 2016

Dr. Lloyd D. Hampton, 86

Director, Applied Research Laboratories
May 10, 2017

George Hannon, 93

UT Golf Coach
October 19, 2017

Joza Hannon, 91

Wife of George Hannon, UT Golf Coach
October 6, 2017

Lester Harrell, 96

Lecturer, Educational Psychology
June 13, 2017

Patsy Drury Hejl, 76

Wife of James Hejl, Assistant Professor of Music and Assistant Director, Longhorn Band
May 23, 2017

Forest G. Hill, 97

Professor Emeritus, Economics
July 7, 2017

Thomas W. Kennedy, 79

Professor Emeritus, Civil Engineering
September 3, 2017

Donald Knaub, 82

Professor Emeritus, Butler School of Music
May 1, 2017

IN MEMORIAM

Ernst Lothar Koschmieder, 88 <i>Professor Emeritus, Civil Engineering</i> October 13, 2017	Joanne "Mickey" Moldenhauer, 82 <i>Wife of Joe Moldenhauer, Professor Emeritus, English, Mody C. Boatright Regents Professor of American And English Literature</i> June 9, 2017	Elton Sakewitz, 61 <i>Mechanic/Technician, Microelectron Research Center</i> May 12, 2017	Susan Jane Szaniszlo, 76 <i>Wife of Paul Szaniszlo, Professor Emeritus, Molecular Genetics and Microbiology</i> June 6, 2017
Wayne Lesser, Ph.D., 68 <i>Associate Professor, English Department</i> July 17, 2017	Jerry Moore, 92 <i>Director of Placement, College of Business Administration</i> May 3, 2017	Pedro Salas, 85 <i>Clerk, Engineering and Chemistry Departments</i> August 12, 2017	Timothy Cormac Valdez, 62 <i>Technical Staff Assistant III, Aerospace Engineering and Engineering Mechanics</i> September 30, 2017
Dr. Stanley Edward Macora, Jr., 79 <i>Extension Instructor, University Extension</i> June 3, 2017	David Alan Morrison, 64 <i>Maintenance Worker, Main Building Utilities Department</i> June 21, 2017	Floyd Glen Self, Jr., 71 <i>Director, Purchasing Office</i> October 11, 2017	Edith L. (Duenk) Volterra, 101 <i>Widow of Professor Enrico Volterra, Aerospace Engineering</i> June 3, 2017
Daniel Patrick Matthews, 96 <i>Plasterer, Maintenance Department</i> June 7, 2017	Kathie Nesbitt, 81 <i>Editor II, UT Center for Energy Studies</i> August 11, 2017	Bertha Gertrude Samson Shanblum, 97 <i>Administrative Assistant, Psychology Department</i> July 5, 2017	Gerald Dean Watkins, 81 <i>Staff, UT Police Department</i> July 18, 2017
Kirk Duncan McIntosh, Ph.D., 59 <i>Senior Research Scientist, Institute for Geophysics</i> June 1, 2017	Helen Osborn, 95 <i>Widow of Roger Cook Osborn, Professor Emeritus, Mathematics</i> August 22, 2017	Bill Shaw, 77 <i>Sam Woodson, Jr. Centennial Memorial Professor Emeritus in Business, Department of Information, Risk, and Operations Management, Red McCombs School of Business</i> October 27, 2017	Ernest Edward Woehl, 95 <i>Staff, Geological Sciences</i> June 30, 2017
George W. McNeil, 86 <i>Financial Associate, Office of the Chancellor, UT System</i> September 6, 2017	Bill D. Powell, Lt. Col. (Ret.), 86 <i>Director, Industrial Education Department, Pickle Research Campus</i> July 19, 2017	WO Shultz, 91 <i>Associate General Counsel, UT System</i> August 24, 2017	Mildred Victoria (Acker) Young, 93 <i>Widow of David Young, Professor Emeritus, Computer Sciences and Mathematics</i> October 4, 2017
Margery Mendelson, 96 <i>Widow of Wallace Mendelson, Professor Emeritus, Government</i> May 31, 2017	Beverly Wills Bonelli Rase, 89 <i>Widow of Howard Rase, W. A. (Bill) Cunningham Professor Emeritus, Chemical Engineering</i> October 18, 2017	Helen T. Smith, 99 <i>Business Librarian, General Libraries and widow of Robert Smith, School of Business</i> September 17, 2017	
Saralind Hill "Lindy" Mings, 76 <i>Resource Office Manager, Center for Research in Water Resources</i> June 10, 2017	John Robertson, 74 <i>Professor, Law School</i> July 5, 2017	Dr. Frank N. "Hap" Speller III, 78 <i>Professor Emeritus, Butler School of Music</i> May 15, 2017	

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